

**Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names**  
**Minutes for November 14, 15 & 16, 2023 Meeting**  
*As approved by the Committee on June 11, 2024*

The **Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names** (Committee) convened for a meeting at 9:00 a.m. HST, on Tuesday, November 14, Wednesday, November 15, and Thursday, November 16, 2023. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. 10) the meeting was open to the public throughout its duration. Committee Manager Andie (Andrea) DeKoter conducted the meeting from the Campus Center Ballroom 1 at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

**Committee Members Participating:**

Derek Alderman, Angelo Baca, Kiana Carlson, Michael Catches Enemy, Julie Dye, Donald Fixico, Meryl Harrell (ex officio member, U.S. Department of Agriculture), Christine Karpchuk-Johnson, Niniaukapealii Kawaihae, Jason MacCannell, Kamanaolana Mills, Fred Mosqueda, Rachel Pereira (Vice Chair), Kimberly Probolus-Cedroni, Lynn Trujillo (ex officio member, Department of Interior), Howard Dale Valandra (Chair), Elva Yañez.

**Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Committee:**

Andie DeKoter, Committee Manager, Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names, National Park Service (NPS).

**Other Participants:**

Alma Ripps, Chief, Office of Policy, NPS; Betsy Kanalley, Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service; Cori Lopez, Special Advisory, Office of the Under Secretary, USDA; Emmie Horadam Bhagratti, Deputy White House Liaison, Office of the Secretary, DOI; Marques Hanalei Marzan, Chair, Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names; N. Ha'alilio Solomon, Assistant Professor, Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai'i at Manoa; Bobby Camara, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (retired); Huihui Kanahale-Mossman, Executive Director, Edith Kanakaole Foundation; Kalani Akana, Research Analyst, Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Ka'aleleo Wong, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, DOI; Lilliane Makaila, Land Use Planner, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; David Pilgrim, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and Founder of the Jim Crow Museum, Ferris State University; Jessica Campbell, Chief Cartographer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Meadow Dibble, Place Justice and Atlantic Black Box; Erika Arthur, Place Justice and Atlantic Black Box; Meadow Feather, Round Valley Indian Tribes.

Note: Meeting agenda, slide presentations, written public comment, and documents shared at the meeting are posted to the Committee's website:

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1892/advisorycommittee-on-reconciliation-in-place-names.htm>

**CONVENING THE MEETING (Day 1) – November 14<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was called to order by Designated Federal Officer (DFO) DeKoter at 9:00 a.m., HST on November 14, 2023.

**Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Roll Call**

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- DFO DeKoter opened up the meeting by extending a welcome to the members of the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation and Place Names. She expressed gratitude to the state of Hawai'i and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands for hosting the session. DeKoter, serving as the Designated Federal Officer, acknowledged both the in-person and online participants before handing over the floor to Chair Howard Valandra.
- Chair Valandra expressed his appreciate to Hawai'i for hosting the meeting. He reflected on the importance of understanding the significance of names, particularly in relation to hidden trauma within Native communities. He turned the floor to Vice Chair Rachel Pereira.
- Vice Chair Pereira offered her thanks and greetings and urged attendees to take care of themselves and each other, recognizing the emotional weight of the topics to be discussed, particularly those laden with pain.
- DFO DeKoter took roll and confirmed members present (see "Committee Members Participating" list, above), and noted that despite some absences the Committee had a quorum.
- Chair Valandra acknowledged the quorum and turned the floor to Processes and Principles Subcommittee Chair Christine Johnson.

**Processes and Principles Subcommittee Listening Session**

- Johnson expressed gratitude to Chair Valandra and everyone involved in organizing the meeting and Hawai'i for hosting. She highlighted the presence of guest speakers for the session and emphasized the importance of engaging with them by inviting questions from both in-person and online committee members following their presentations. She then welcomed the first speaker, Mr. Marzan, to join the discussion, extending a warm welcome on behalf of the subcommittee.

**Presentation by Marques Hanalei Marzan, Chair, Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names**

- Mr. Marques Marzan began by extending greetings to all attendees, both in person and virtually, expressing gratitude to everyone involved in stewarding and caring for the connections to the places, lands, and communities in Hawai'i, as well as across the US and Turtle Island. He introduced himself as the Bishop Museum Designee to the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names, having served since 2015 and as chair since 2016. Marzan shared his experiences on the board, highlighting instances where the community sought to rename geographic features with cultural significance. One such example was the naming of newly formed cinder cones on the Island of Hawai'i following volcanic eruptions in 2018. The community desired Hawaiian names for these features, leading to a challenging decision-making process for the board. Marzan emphasized the importance of community engagement in the consultation process, even amidst opposition and differing opinions. Another example Marzan provided was the renaming of a water feature on Maui, previously known as Iao Stream, back to its original name, Wailuku River, to restore its historic significance. He stressed the Board's commitment to

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empowering communities in preserving their cultural heritage through place names. Marzan acknowledged the complexity of the issues faced by the Board and emphasized the importance of community support and engagement in their decision-making process. He highlighted his role in bringing cultural background and knowledge gained from the Bishop Museum to the Board discussions. Marzan concluded by expressing openness to questions and offering further insight into the Board's work.

### **Committee Discussion**

- Johnson initiated the discussion by posing questions regarding the Board's construction, process for handling name requests, community engagement methods, and its relationship with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). Marzan explained that the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names is a statutory board consisting of seven designated members from various agencies across Hawai'i. He described the process for submitting name requests, including how the Board evaluates each request. Once a decision is made, the name is submitted to the BGN for official approval. Regarding community engagement, Marzan acknowledged the challenges posed by Hawaii's geographical dispersion and explained that before COVID-19, meetings were primarily held in person. However, the Board had since adapted to virtual meetings to facilitate community engagement, including holding meetings in specific communities to gather testimony and experiences directly from community members.
- Vice Chair Pereira inquired about the challenges of ensuring widespread awareness of name changes across the Hawaiian Islands. Marzan acknowledged the difficulty of disseminating information, especially for smaller name changes, and explained that the board relied on press releases and news coverage for larger changes, while maintaining an updated list of names on their website for reference by the community.
- Jason MacCannell posed a question regarding the financial implications of name changes, particularly in light of budget constraints faced by governmental organizations. Marzan clarified that the Hawai'i Board's jurisdiction pertained only to state-named features, not federal lands. He explained that the state was responsible for implementing name changes on state lands, including signage and official documents, as and when necessary, without immediate obligations to update them until they needed replacement.
- Kamana'o Mills provided historical context and insights into the significance of diacritical markings in Hawaiian names. He shared examples of how the absence of these markings could alter the meaning of words in the Hawaiian language. He emphasized the importance of research in understanding the origins and meanings of place names, drawing upon a wealth of resources such as Hawaiian language newspapers dating back to the mid-1800s.
- Niniau Kawaihae raised questions regarding the resources available for research and community engagement within the Hawai'i Board of Geographic Names. She inquired whether the board had paid staff designated for such tasks and sought clarification on the community engagement process, particularly on the Big Island. Marzan explained that

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while the board members were technically heads of different agencies, they designated paid staff members as their representatives on the board. However, the board itself did not have funds to support activities beyond meetings, placing the burden of research and engagement on the designated representatives. Kawaihae further elaborated on the community engagement process, highlighting the involvement of Native Hawaiians on the board and the identification of potential stakeholders for consultation. She emphasized the importance of proactive community outreach to ensure meaningful engagement. Mills shared his experience of community engagement, noting that controversial issues tended to attract more participation from the community compared to routine matters. He underscored the challenges of garnering community interest in non-controversial topics. Kawaihae emphasized the significance of addressing community engagement as a central aspect of the board's work and warned against neglecting it, as it could lead to lack of participation from the community. Johnson acknowledged the challenges faced by the Hawai'i Board in conducting community engagement and expressed appreciation for sharing their experiences.

- Chair Valandra expressed gratitude for the presentation and highlighted the challenges faced by indigenous tribes in preserving their oral histories compared to the written records available to the Hawaiian people. He emphasized the importance of storytelling and the struggle to maintain historical accuracy over generations. Marzan acknowledged the gift of being able to record their language and history in writing, which was facilitated by the arrival of missionaries in Hawai'i. He also expressed solidarity with other indigenous communities facing similar challenges in preserving their languages and histories.
- Johnson inquired about the official push to rectify the missing vowel in the name of Hawai'i, to which Kawaihae explained that changing the state's name would require an act of Congress. She noted the historical context of the state's name and the challenges in achieving such a change. Mills shared insights into using religious texts, such as the Bible, to aid in language preservation and dictionary construction.
- Johnson thanked the participants for their contributions and insights, expressing appreciation for their involvement in the committee's work on reconciliation and place names. Marzan expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share his experiences. Chair Valandra concluded by thanking the participants for their enlightening discussion before introducing the next speaker, Mr. Ka'aleleo Wong.

**Presentation by Ka'aleleo Wong, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Department of Interior**

- Ka'alaleo Wong, representing the Department of the Interior Office of Native Hawaiian Relations shared his insights and experiences related to place naming processes in Hawai'i, particularly focusing on his involvement with the Hawai'i Board on Geographic

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Names (HBGN) and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Wong explained that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supported the HBGN through resources like its research department. He highlighted the importance of utilizing existing resources for community engagement and place naming processes, even if the board itself lacked direct funding. Regarding federal lands and place naming, Wong mentioned a project funded by the Native Act, administered by the Department of the Interior, aimed at understanding and utilizing place names at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. He discussed the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group's role in managing the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. This group collaborates with various agencies to provide indigenous perspectives on naming species and locations within the monument. Wong emphasized the inclusivity and native point of view grounding the naming process in oral histories, traditional knowledge, and lived experiences. He highlighted the importance of being open to naming new places while remaining receptive to rediscovering and reinstating old names if they resurface. He touched on the Lexicon Committee's role in naming everyday items in Hawaii, demonstrating the ongoing efforts to integrate Hawaiian language and culture into various aspects of life. He explained how the Lexicon Committee in the 1990s struggled to find Hawaiian names for these islands due to limited historical records. The committee eventually created new names based on available information, but these names were not widely used. However, recent research by a University of Hawai'i professor uncovered more traditional names from historical sources, providing a deeper understanding of the places. Wong emphasized the importance of using traditional names when they become available, while also acknowledging the significance of newer names in telling the story of a place. He highlighted the power of names in conveying the essence and history of a location. In conclusion, Wong reiterated the Cultural Working Group's approach of inclusivity and consideration of various perspectives in the naming process, and invited questions from the Committee.

### **Committee Discussion**

- The conversation concluded with various speakers expressing appreciation for the discussion and insights shared by Ka'alaleo Wong and Marques Marzan.
- They highlighted the challenges and complexities involved in naming places, especially in Hawaiian culture, and emphasized the importance of collaboration, education, and respect for indigenous knowledge and traditions. The speakers touched on the process of naming new subdivisions and places, the significance of using traditional names when available, and the challenges of reconciling historical and cultural contexts with practical considerations like pronunciation and uniqueness.

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- Members concluded with a brief discussion about the naming of new species, where collaboration between managing agencies and indigenous communities plays a crucial role in selecting appropriate names that reflect the cultural significance and characteristics of the species. Speakers and Committee members underscored the ongoing efforts to honor and preserve indigenous heritage and knowledge while navigating the complexities of modern naming practices and the importance of community involvement and education in this process.
- Chair Valandra expressed gratitude to the speakers on behalf of the Committee, and DeKoter called for a scheduled break before reconvening for further discussions and public comments.

### **Federal Land Unit Names Subcommittee Listening Session**

- Federal Land Unit Names Subcommittee Chair Niniau Kawaihae introduced two speakers for the session: Mr. Bobby Camara and Professor N. Ha'alilio Solomon. Bobby Camara is an author, naturalist, and member of the Board of Trustees for the Hawaiian Historical Society. Professor N. Ha'alilio Solomon is an assistant professor at the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Kawaihae emphasized the native Hawaiian practice of giving precedence to elders, or Kupuna, to speak first, in alignment with Hawaiian culture and principles and invited Camara to speak.

### **Presentation by Bobby Camara, Author and Naturalist**

- Mr. Bobby Camara began by introducing himself as a native of Hawai'i, born and raised in Honokaa on the Northeast coast of the island of Hawai'i. He worked at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park for 30 years before retiring, and he describes himself as a naturalist. While he is not a native Hawaiian, his family has deep roots in Hawai'i, with all of his great-grandparents coming to Hawai'i in the mid-1800s to work in the sugar industry after being recruited from Madeira and the Azores.
- Camara explained that over the past 20-30 years, he and a small group have worked towards revitalizing native traditional place names at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Despite facing time constraints and limited resources, their efforts have yielded substantial results. He highlights the importance of the Hawaiian language in this process, noting that while there was a gap in native speakers, the language has remained alive and practiced, particularly up until the 1970s.
- Kawaihae praised Camara for his dedication and role in the revitalization of native traditional place names at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. She credits him with

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keeping their efforts focused and organized, particularly in researching names and ensuring accuracy. She noted the park is an example of successful efforts to replace English names with native Hawaiian names, thanks in large part to Camara's work.

- Camara experienced technical difficulties, prompting Kawaihae to suggest that Professor Ha'alilio Solomon begin his presentation while Camara resolved the issue.

**Presentation by N. Ha'alilio Solomon, Assistant Professor, Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai'i at Manoa**

- Mr. N. Ha'alilio Solomon began his remarks by introducing himself as a Hawaiian language educator at UH Manoa and a PhD candidate in the linguistics department. He briefly mentioned his research focus on primary sources related to place names, emphasizing the importance of accurately spelling diacritically marked names. Reflecting on his journey into place name research, he discussed his published work on the transformation of Moanalua into Hawai'i Kai and the significance of place names in shaping perceptions and identities.
- Drawing from anthropologist Francis Haar's concept of post-literate and preliterate societies, Solomon explained the difference between ordering events on a timeline versus a space line. He highlighted the importance of place names in preliterate societies, where events are organized spatially rather than temporally. He underscored the significance of place names as markers of history and identity, cautioning against the erasure or replacement of names, which could lead to the loss of cultural narratives and connections to the land.
- Solomon's presentation sparked discussions about the implications of place names on cultural memory and heritage.
- Ms. Lynn Trujillo shared insights from her own community's discussions about the naming of places and the challenges of preserving oral languages in written form.
- Camara rejoined the meeting, prompting Kawaihae to invite him to share insights on how Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park corrected historical inaccuracies in place names. This highlighted the importance of honoring the original history and indigenous languages through appropriate naming practices.

**Presentation by Camara, continued**

- Camara acknowledged the challenges faced by visitors in pronouncing multi-syllabic place names in Hawai'i and emphasized the importance of patiently guiding them through correct pronunciation. He recounted efforts made at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to rectify historically inappropriate place names, such as renaming Thurston Lava

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Tube to Nahuku, reflecting its indigenous significance. He highlighted the significance of place names in preserving cultural heritage and stressed the need for accuracy in pronunciation and spelling.

- Camara detailed the process of correcting place names at the park, including changing Waldron Ledge to Kupina'i Pali and Byron Ledge to Uealoha. He discussed the complexities of renaming underwater features and emphasized the importance of education in understanding and respecting indigenous place names. Camara concluded by advocating for the correction of the spelling of "Hawai'i" in official documents and publications, citing the precedent set by previous name corrections. He emphasized the importance of using correct diacritical marks in spelling and encouraged the gradual adoption of correct spelling in reprinting materials.

**Committee Discussion (continued)**

- Mr. Angelo Baca thanked Camara for sharing stories about Pele, emphasizing the importance of Pele's journey in connecting various places and communities. He discussed the ongoing debate about spelling and pronunciation of Hawaiian names, highlighting differences between the Niihau community's preference for writing without diacritical marks and standard orthography used in education programs elsewhere. Baca explained the significance of orthography in reflecting the status of the language and the challenges in reaching consensus due to differing perspectives. He emphasized the importance of diacritical marks as "training wheels" for learners and advocated for their consistent use to aid pronunciation. The discussion touched on the complexities of preserving traditional pronunciation while acknowledging local variations.
- Camara shared his experiences with pronunciation variations and emphasized the importance of accommodating both traditional and modern perspectives. He discussed the challenges of reconciling different linguistic practices and the need for open-mindedness in addressing these issues. He also highlighted the oral tradition of Native Hawaiians in memorizing chants and encouraged diligence in pronunciation practice.
- The Committee discussed the challenges of pronunciation versus spelling, particularly in place names, highlighting examples of bastardizations and variations in pronunciation within local communities. They emphasized the importance of considering both local usage and traditional names, noting progress in adopting indigenous place names like Kalaeloa and Huananiho.
- Kawaihae noted Solomon's presentation on the linear versus spatial timeline of names, emphasizing the significance of oral storytelling in preliterate societies.

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- Solomon elaborated on the concept of a spatial timeline versus a linear timeline, highlighting the different orientations and conceptualizations of time and space in indigenous cultures.
- Chair Valandra shared insights from his experience with indigenous language preservation efforts, discussing challenges related to dialectal variations and standardization.
- Trujillo emphasized the relational nature of native languages and encouraged the committee to consider the diverse cultural perspectives when addressing linguistic issues.
- Baca challenged the idea of a standard language, advocating for the recognition of multiple place names and variations in pronunciation. He emphasized the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge and place-based meanings.
- MacCannell reflected on the arbitrariness of language in Western thinking and advocated for a shift towards recognizing the inherent meaning and significance of indigenous place names. He emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge in shaping policy and academic discourse.
- Chair Valandra discussed the role of the USGS in standardizing geographic names to prevent confusion on maps. He discussed the rationale behind standardized place names, acknowledging the sacrifice of history and culture for the sake of clarity on maps. Camara expressed his preference for having a single name for a location, citing the GNIS database's inclusion of variant names. He emphasized that feature names are not set in stone and can be changed based on new evidence, citing the example of Waldron Ledge being renamed Kupina'i Pali.
- Kawaihae thanked Camara for his input. She expressed appreciation for Solomon's presentation on philosophical concepts and looked forward to further discussion.

**Geographic Features Subcommittee Listening Session**

- Chair Valandra welcomed everyone and thanked the morning speakers for their inspiring discussions. Mr. Mike Catches Enemy, chair of the Subcommittee on Geographic Features, introduced himself and his committee, expressing pride in their work and gratitude for the opportunity to lead the subcommittee. Dekoter acknowledged the morning's insightful speakers and introduced Dr. Huihui Kanahale-Mossman, Executive Director of the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, as the next speaker.

**Presentation by Huihui Kanahale-Mossman, Executive Director, Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation**

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- Dr. Kanahale-Mossman gave a presentation on various topics related to Hawaiian culture and environmental research. She began by introducing herself and explaining her family's connection to Hawai'i Island. She then discussed the method of research used by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, called Macaewalu, which involves multiple perspectives on the environment based on traditional Hawaiian knowledge.
- She explained that this method is derived from ancient chants, particularly the Kumulipo, which lists all organic elements of the islands. Dr. Kanahale-Mossman highlighted three schools of study outlined in the Kumulipo and emphasized that observation is crucial for understanding the environment and connecting it to cultural practices.
- Dr. Kanahale-Mossman then delved into the process of identifying place names, emphasizing factors such as purpose, appearance, location, and connection to natural sources. She provided examples, including Wai Kahuna, the summit of Kilauea volcano, explaining how observations and cultural traditions inform the naming of such places. She stressed the importance of studying traditional texts and oral traditions, known as mo'olelo, for understanding place names and their significance in Hawaiian culture. She emphasized the importance of understanding the cultural and environmental contexts behind these names. She concluded by emphasizing the role of traditional knowledge, chants, and observation in understanding the meanings behind place names and highlighting the importance of preserving and studying these names to better understand Hawaiian culture and the environment.

**Presentation by Kalani Akana, Research Analyst, Office of Hawaiian Affairs**

- Dr. Kalani Akana discussed various place names from the island of Hawaii, including the mountain Kalalea, the stream, and homestead. He reflected on his work with the Hawai'i Board of Geographic Names from 2014 to 2017, highlighting the development of place name guidelines and the importance of community engagement and consultation with elders. Akana also shared insights into the deliberative process of reviewing and submitting place names, particularly focusing on the case of Mauna Kea. He explained the significance of the name and the controversy surrounding the construction of telescopes on the mountain. Ultimately, it was determined that the correct name was Mauna Kea, acknowledging alternative spellings such as Maunakea. Kawaihae raised the issue of indigenous representation on state boards of geographic names, prompting discussion on the importance of native tribes having a voice in the naming process. Akana emphasized the necessity of indigenous participation on such boards, noting that many state names derive from native languages.

**Committee Discussion**

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- MacCannell mentioned the expansion of California's Council on Geographic Names to include the secretary of the Native American Heritage Commission. He highlighted the complexities of representation for Native Americans in state positions due to legal constraints against racial preferences. Johnson added that most state boards have only one person in charge of place names, making it challenging to provide spots for other groups.
- The conversation shifted to Nevada's efforts to include indigenous representation on their state board, with the addition of the Nevada Indian Commission. Dr. Akana shared insights into Hawaii's naming processes, including discussions about rectifying misspelled names and reconciling place names with their true origins. He also shared examples of how Hawaii's board rectified names to reflect their true meanings, such as renaming locations like Hawaii Kai to Moanalua and Yokohama Bay to its original name, Keawa'ula. Several Committee members noted the importance of accurately representing indigenous cultures in place names.
- Johnson inquired about the board's historical and current engagement with youth, language revitalization projects, and representation of younger communities in managing place names. Dr. Akana explained that youth are not specifically named on the board by statute but acknowledged the importance of their involvement. Kawaihae mentioned the appointment of a young Hawaiian woman to the board and highlighted the value of youth learning through observation and interaction with experienced professionals.
- Chair Valandra and Dr Akana discussed the time-consuming nature of the PIG (Permitted Interactive Group) process, which took about half a year from start to finish due to legal requirements and review processes by the USGS. Johnson added that the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) also undergoes a thorough research process, contributing to longer timelines for decision-making.

### **Public Comment**

- DFO DeKoter opened the floor to the public and Committee members for comments and questions.
- Camara expressed concern about the removal of valuable information from the GNIS website due to privacy issues, and he hoped that the information would be restored soon.
- Jennifer Runyan, Research Staff with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, explained that the removal was mandated by the USGS privacy officer due to personally identifiable information included in the records.
- Meryl Harrell expressed appreciation for the presentations, and other participants echoed similar sentiments.
- Marzan highlighted the importance of intergenerational knowledge transfer and suggested the inclusion of youth and elder representatives in decision-making processes.

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- Michael Catches Enemy expressed gratitude for the presentations and public comments.
- Vice Chair Pereira raised a question about the meaning of "Hawaii" without the okina, prompting Dr. Akana to explain its significance and Camara to emphasize the importance of correct spelling.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Valandra thanked Committee members and meeting attendees and adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m., HST, on November 14, 2023.

**RECONVENING THE MEETING (Day 2) – November 15<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was called to order by DFO DeKoter at 9 am, HST on November 15, 2023.

**Opening Remarks**

- Chair Valandra welcomed everyone and requested DFO DeKoter to take a roll call. A roll call was conducted to confirm the presence of committee members and quorum, and they proceeded with opening remarks.
- Chair Valandra expressed appreciation for the informative and insightful presentations from the previous day, highlighting the similarities among indigenous peoples and the importance of understanding and respecting indigenous perspectives.
- Vice Chair Pereira emphasized the significance of intentionality in the work being done and reflected on the present-day dismissal of indigenous needs and concerns, exemplified by the misspelling of the name of the state of Hawai'i.

**Remarks by Lilliane Makaila, Land Use Planner, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

- Ms. Lilliane Makaila, representing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, was acknowledged as a guest at the meeting. She shared opening remarks, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to speak in place of Chair Kali Watson, who couldn't attend. Makaila provided background information on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, explaining its establishment under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 to allocate land for Native Hawaiians. She emphasized the significance of the Hawaiian term "ho'opulapula" chosen intentionally to reflect the idea of starting a seedling for propagation and flourishing, rather than simply meaning "home" or "homestead." Makaila underscored the importance of the Reconciliation in Place Names Act in recognizing the power and intentionality behind names. She concluded by expressing hope that the reconciliation of names in Hawaii would restore the mana, or power, of those names.

**Processes and Principles Discussion of Principles and Derogatory Terms**

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- Chair Valandra expressed gratitude to Ms. Makaila for her remarks before transitioning to the discussion on principles and the definition of derogatory terms.
- Subcommittee Chair Johnson acknowledged the efforts of her subcommittee members and reviewed the definition of derogatory terms as outlined in Secretarial Order 3405. She emphasized the importance of addressing derogatory names and highlighted the need for a multi-stage approach to reforming problematic place names. Johnson also introduced a series of principles constructed by Dr. Derek Alderman [see “Place Name Reconciliation Principles” at [Reconciliation in Place Names Committee - Office of Policy \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)], aimed at aligning the nation's place name landscape with values of truth and justice. These principles emphasize reconciliation and the need for public name symbols that promote mutual respect for socio-cultural differences. Alderman briefly discussed the construction of these principles before the discussion continued.
- Alderman expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present the principles and encouraged further discussion and feedback from colleagues. He highlighted the collaborative effort behind the principles and emphasized their importance in guiding the committee's work and educating the public. Alderman underscored the principles' focus on democracy, truth, and justice, as well as the reparative nature of place name reconciliation. He stressed the need for public consultation, research-driven approaches, and educational initiatives in the reconciliation process.
- Johnson acknowledged public comments on the principles, emphasizing the importance of transparency and community involvement. She outlined forthcoming efforts from the subcommittee, including recommendations for federal process changes and the proposal to establish an Education and Outreach Subcommittee. Johnson shared insights from a recent conference and highlighted the need for continued outreach to historically marginalized communities. The discussion was then opened for general comments and suggestions from committee members.
- Kawaihae expressed gratitude for the concise and powerful presentation of the subcommittee's work, recognizing it as a roadmap for the larger committee's efforts. Johnson, acknowledging the challenges of organizing thoughts into a cohesive document, thanked the subcommittee members for their collaborative effort.
- Elva Yanez highlighted the iterative process and internal review that enriched the document, thanking fellow committee members for their input.
- MacCannell underscored the need to address how to replace derogatory place names, emphasizing the importance of indigenous consultation and participation.
- Chair Valandra commended the subcommittee's efforts in defining derogatory terms, emphasizing the personal significance of derogatory names and the importance of representation.
- DFO DeKoter emphasized the collaborative efforts and transparency within the committee, highlighting the public comments received in support of their principles.

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- Johnson clarified the roles of federal and state entities in managing place names, emphasizing the federal authority of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN).
- After a break, the discussion resumed with a focus on education and outreach regarding Secretarial Order 3404 and 3405, as well as BGN regulations. The committee reflected on feedback received from various conferences and meetings, particularly noting the interest of state geographic names boards in understanding the directives.
- Johnson emphasized the importance of education and outreach, highlighting the need to engage with stakeholders at both the local and national levels.
- Kawaihae suggested soliciting feedback from Indian tribes, state and local governments, federal agencies, and the public.
- MacCannell proposed different approaches for engagement, emphasizing the significance of in-person listening sessions for communities most affected by decisions. He also suggested leveraging digital platforms and potentially finding a celebrity champion to raise awareness among the general public. These ideas were discussed in the meeting as potential strategies for effective education and outreach.
- Vice Chair Pereira expressed support for MacCannell's idea of listening sessions but emphasized the need for clear guidelines and expectations. She also highlighted the importance of coordinating with other departments to ensure awareness of name changes.
- Johnson reflected on the swift and efficient implementation of Secretarial Order 3404, which aimed to remove derogatory terms from federal lands. She emphasized the need for continued engagement and education, mentioning partnerships with organizations like the Council on Geographic Names Authorities.
- Mills and Elva Yañez discussed strategies for effective community engagement, including leveraging existing infrastructure and working closely with state geographic names boards. Mills suggested sending letters to state boards to facilitate collaboration and resource sharing.
- Chair Valandra summarized the progress made by the committee, noting the establishment of principles and definitions as foundational stones. He emphasized the need to incorporate these into future processes and thanked the members for their contributions.
- Johnson concluded the session by encouraging members to consider their resources and potential requests for support moving forward.
- DFO DeKoter announced a schedule change due to the progress made on various topics.
- Cori Lopez raised a point from the Processes and Principles Subcommittee regarding the need for nuanced processes for handling derogatory or offensive names, suggesting different categories of offensive terms.
- Yañez inquired about the continuation of the outreach and engagement conversation.
- Chair Valandra confirmed the need for a motion and vote to create an Education and Outreach Subcommittee, to be discussed further the next day.

**Federal Land Unit Names Discussion**

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- Chair Valandra opened the floor to Subcommittee Chair Niniau Kawaihae, who expressed gratitude for the positive feedback received and thanked the subcommittee members for their efforts. She proceeded to discuss the Federal land unit names proposed by the subcommittee as being potentially derogatory, highlighting the challenges and nuances involved in determining derogatory terms.
- Kiana Carlson and Julie Dye elaborated on specific names, such as Bayou Sauvage, emphasizing the derogatory connotations associated with them.
- Mills provided historical context for several place names, including Deadman's Bar Recreation Area and Savage Run Wilderness. He highlighted the stories behind these names, such as the tale of Isaac Swim and the Savage brothers. A discussion ensued regarding the derogatory nature of certain names, particularly those containing references to the devil or hell.
- MacCannell raised concerns about the classification of such names as derogatory, citing religious and cultural perspectives.
- Kawaihae emphasized the importance of considering the origin and impact of these names, especially in relation to Native American beliefs. Johnson echoed this sentiment, noting the need for consistency and thorough research when evaluating derogatory terms.
- Kawaihae explained that due to the nature of their subcommittee's work on federal land units, they had to rely on the Excel spreadsheets provided by the entities listed without contacting tribes for clarification.
- Chair Valandra discussed the challenges of considering the time period and context in which names were created, emphasizing the importance of understanding Native languages and historical perspectives. He underscored the need for public input and highlighted the complexity of interpreting derogatory terms over time.
- Carlson shared her perspective on the association of names containing "devil" or "hell" with meeting places and places of hardship, suggesting that derogatory terms may have originated from specific historical contexts.
- Mills discussed the challenges of interpreting historical terms in the context of changing language and societal norms, highlighting the difficulty of determining whether to apply modern perceptions of derogatory terms to historical names.
- Kawaihae expressed appreciation for the lively discussion among committee members and emphasized the importance of refining their approach before making recommendations.
- Yañez suggested creating consensus around the interpretation of different ideas, while Meryl Harrell emphasized the need for nuance in categorizing names as derogatory, offensive, inappropriate, or misapplied.
- MacCannell expressed concern about potentially missing names, such as Devil's Postpile National Monument, and suggested a review of the search process for federal land unit names.

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- DFO DeKoter acknowledged the extensive effort put into reviewing thousands of words and names for geographic features and federal land units. She emphasized the importance of public feedback and openness to recognizing missed names or terms.
- MacCannell expressed concern about potentially overlooked names and provided historical context regarding the term "savage," highlighting the complexity of evaluating names based on their origins and implications.
- Baca emphasized the significance of the committee's work in mitigating harm caused by derogatory place names, stressing the importance of addressing not only the names themselves but also the broader implications for marginalized communities. He urged the committee to approach the task with a holistic perspective, acknowledging the emotional and spiritual dimensions involved.
- Carlson echoed the sentiment of embracing mistakes as part of the process, recognizing the ongoing nature of the work and the potential for future generations to rectify errors.
- Harrell and Lopez provided insights into categorizing derogatory names based on their nature and context. They outlined three categories: names derogatory per se (such as racial slurs), names derogatory in context (innocuous words used offensively), and misrepresentative or misnamed names (names inaccurately applied to a place or people). They offered examples to illustrate each category and emphasized the need for nuanced evaluation.
- The committee discussed specific names to move forward for further consideration, including Bayou Sauvage, Senator Wash-Sq--- Lake Dike, Dead Indian Creek Diversion, and Savage Run Wilderness. There was also a suggestion to discuss Devils Tower National Monument in future meetings. They also discussed the issue of derogatory geographic names and whether the focus should be on the names themselves or the sites they are associated with.
- MacCannell expressed support for removing names that are derogatory, like Devils Tower, but suggested caution in moving forward until the derogatory nature of other names is confirmed.
- Johnson raised the question of whether the committee should focus on names or sites, seeking clarification on their directive.
- Kawaihae highlighted the need for further research and public outreach before making recommendations for name changes.
- MacCannell emphasized the importance of addressing the impact of derogatory names on communities, even if the names were originally innocuous.
- Mills suggested additional names for consideration based on historical context, while Yañez proposed researching devil-related names similar to Devils Tower.
- DFO DeKoter clarified the committee's duty to recommend processes for changing derogatory names and elaborated on differentiating between federal land unit names and derogatory terms.

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- Chair Valandra encouraged bold action in addressing derogatory names and underscored the importance of considering the impact on affected communities.
- Dye echoed the sentiment that the focus should be on the sites associated with derogatory names.

**Public Comment**

- DFO DeKoter noted that no members of the public had requested time to speak and invited anyone present to provide public comment.
- Jessica Lambert raised her hand and was recognized to speak. She expressed gratitude to the committee for their work and emphasized the importance of involving youth voices in the process of community engagement and name changes. Lambert shared her experiences at the National Congress of American Indians convention, highlighting the enthusiasm of Native youth in renaming campaigns and offering assistance in connecting the committee with youth networks.
- Camara then spoke, reminiscing about his past involvement with the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names and emphasizing the complexity of the renaming process. He stressed the need for thorough research and individualized approaches to each place name. He encouraged the committee to consider who would be responsible for conducting research and understanding the cultural context of each name. He mentioned his interest in the Southwest and inquired about the concerns regarding the term "Anasazi."
- DFO DeKoter acknowledged Camara's question and mentioned that it would be discussed in detail the following day. Camara acknowledged this and emphasized the importance of mentoring youth with elder knowledge, expressing gratitude for the committee's work before concluding his comments.
- Kimberly Smith then spoke, expressing gratitude for the committee's efforts and highlighting the work of the CORE (Coalition for Outdoor Renaming and Education) coalition in supporting renaming efforts. Smith offered support and provided written public comment, suggesting considerations for additional place names to be included in the discussion.
- DFO Dekoter confirmed there were no further public comments at that time.

**Remarks from Lynn Trujillo, Senior Counselor to the Secretary, Department of the Interior**

- Trujillo expressed gratitude to the committee for the engaging conversation and acknowledged the significant work done by subcommittees. As an ex officio member from the Department of the Interior, Trujillo emphasized her perspective on the implementation side of the process. She discussed the importance of considering practical implementation of the committee's recommendations and how they would be transmitted to the department. Trujillo invited the committee to think through potential

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implementation strategies and advised them to consider this aspect as they continue their work.

**Closing Remarks**

- Chair Valandra echoed Trujillo’s sentiments about being mindful and suggested continuing the discussion on education and outreach efforts. He encouraged committee members to share their comments.
- Kawaihae expressed appreciation for the robust discussion and the opportunity to share Native perspectives on geographic naming. She found the conversation enlightening and valued the individual consideration given to each area.
- Vice Chair Pereira thanked participants for their honesty and willingness to challenge perspectives. She encouraged continued public engagement and expressed enthusiasm for future education plans.
- Baca emphasized the importance of moving forward despite the possibility of making mistakes, urging bravery and active participation.
- Chair Valandra echoed this sentiment, reflecting on the progress made and expressing gratitude to all involved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Valandra thanked Committee members and meeting attendees and adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m., HST, on November 15, 2023.

**RECONVENING THE MEETING (Day 3) – November 16<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was called to order by DFO DeKoter at 9 am, HST on November 16, 2023.

**Opening Remarks**

- Chair Valandra expressed gratitude for the previous night's dinner and made important announcements regarding a committee member's birthday and another member's achievement in completing a marathon. He emphasized the significance of the day's agenda and the committee's commitment to fulfilling their mission.
- Vice Chair Pereira encouraged embracing change and recognized the contributions of Joshua Winchell to the group.
- DFO DeKoter conducted a roll call to establish a quorum, with members indicating their presence.
- Chair Valandra provided an opportunity for committee members to discuss any lingering business from the previous day's agenda.
- Kawaihae expressed appreciation for the chance to revisit the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) guidelines, noting the importance of understanding the sub-committee's work within the framework of individual capacities before full committee discussion.

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**Geographic Features Subcommittee Discussion**

- DFO DeKoter introduced the agenda for the day, focusing on the materials from the Geographic Features Subcommittee.
- Geographic Features Subcommittee Chair Mike Catches Enemy expressed gratitude for the opportunity to lead the subcommittee remotely and highlighted the vibrant discussions and progress made during their meetings. DFO DeKoter then opened the floor for discussion on the draft list of geographic features, numbers 1 through 41.
- Christine Johnson commended the committee's work but raised concerns about the inclusion of sites not directly related to derogatory terms and suggested the need for dedicated staff for further research. Other committee members echoed the importance of having a dedicated research arm and shared considerations about the representation of different ethnicities in the discussion.
- Kawaihae inquired about the process for addressing names or sites not under federal land units.
- Johnson addressed the need for dedicated staff to address various aspects of site names, such as Devils Tower, which have multiple layers of significance beyond federal land units.
- Kawaihae clarified the focus of the sub-committee on federal land units and the intention to recommend specific sites like Devils Tower National Monument for potential name changes.
- Chair Valandra highlighted the significance of addressing existing names on maps and invited committee members to reflect on their reactions to encountering potentially derogatory terms.
- Following some discussion and clarification, Catches Enemy proceeded to discuss the next group of terms, numbers 42 through 94, including additional considerations for terms like "Redman."
- Mills provided additional context on the term "Redman," highlighting its historical and cultural significance as both a last name and a term with various derivations.
- Kawaihae inquired about the background research done on locations associated with the term "Redman" to determine if non-Native American populations were present.
- Catches Enemy clarified that no additional research was conducted beyond what was presented.
- DFO DeKoter emphasized the impact of derogatory terms on individuals visiting those areas, regardless of their historical context, and suggested considering including full names to preserve surnames.
- Vice Chair Pereira echoed the sentiment and expressed reservations about naming places after individuals in general.
- Mills offered insights on conducting research after passing the list, suggesting leveraging existing geographic name boards for further information.

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- Donald Fixico highlighted the cultural impact of colonial naming practices, emphasizing the need to address the dominance of certain ideologies.
- Mills proposed a methodology for conducting research after passing the list, emphasizing the importance of doing thorough research before making recommendations.
- During the meeting, Kawaihae emphasized the importance of ensuring that the committee's recommendations to Secretary Deb Haaland are well-vetted and supported by research. She also raised a question about Red Woman Reservoir, seeking clarification on its origin and whether it was intended to be derogatory.
- Betsy Kanalley from the U.S. Forest Service explained that Red Woman Reservoir was proposed by the Oglala Tribe to replace an offensive term and was meant to honor a significant figure in the tribe. Chair Valandra and others discussed the cultural significance of names and the need to consider their impact on individuals and communities.
- Dye highlighted the historical context of assigning colors to ethnic groups in the United States.
- Catches Enemy and Baca raised concerns about Red Woman Reservoir's inclusion on the list, suggesting that it may have been a bureaucratic oversight and recommending its removal to streamline the process.
- DFO DeKoter highlighted a group of names (numbers 87 through 91) that were slightly different and suggested they be considered separately.
- Kawaihae mentioned the recent change of the NFL team's mascot as a reason to retain these names on the list.
- Catches Enemy and Baca emphasized the derogatory nature of certain terms and the historical context of federal recognition. They advocated for removing derogatory labels like "half-breed."
- Kawaihae provided additional historical context regarding blood quantum requirements for Native Hawaiians.
- Moving on to the next batch of names (numbers 105 through 114), Mills discussed the evolution of the term "bitch" and its derogatory connotations over time.
- Johnson noted that item 105 refers to submerged islands.
- Catches Enemy noted that Dr. David Pilgrim had joined the meeting. DFO DeKoter invited him to speak.

**Presentation by Dr. David Pilgrim, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and Founder of the Jim Crow Museum, Ferris State University**

- Dr. David Pilgrim opened with greetings and stated that he had been invited to comment on the draft replacement recommendation generated by the subcommittee. Dr. Pilgrim delivered a prepared statement, highlighting the historical context of the racial slur "coon." He traced its origins to minstrel shows of the 19th century, where Black people

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were depicted as caricatures, and discussed its persistence in various forms of entertainment over the years. Dr. Pilgrim referenced instances of the slur being used derogatorily, including examples from media and public figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. He also mentioned the presence of racist imagery in everyday objects, citing the Coon Chicken Inn restaurants as an example. Dr. Pilgrim emphasized the importance of contextualizing and studying such artifacts to understand the history of racism in America. He concluded by asserting that the portrayal of Black people as "coons" should be condemned and relegated to the past.

### **Committee Discussion Continued**

- Members expressed gratitude for Dr. Pilgrim’s insights and contributions to the discussion. He offered recommendations for addressing the term “coon,” suggesting renaming instances where it refers to animals or commemorations, and providing historical context for ambiguous cases. He also discussed the need for further research on derogatory monuments and their psychosocial effects.
- DFO Dekoter, with the concurrence of Chair Valandra and Catches Enemy, suggested pausing the discussion on the current agenda item and focusing on the draft recommendation from the Geographic Features Subcommittee regarding the use of the term "coon."
- Catches Enemy provided some additional comments on the proposal, emphasizing the importance of contextualizing instances where the term is used.
- Mills and Johnson echoed the need for interpretive signage on the landscape to explain the historical context and harm caused by the term. The committee members discussed various aspects of the proposal, including its uniqueness compared to other items on the list of names put forward by the subcommittee and the importance of the word change recommendation.
- DFO DeKoter opened the floor for discussion on items 115 through 123 on the Geographic Features list.
- Kawaihae suggested expanding the discussion to include items 115 through 144 in light of Dr. Pilgrim's remarks about c--n.
- Mills provided additional information about the Oregon Board of Geographic Names' decision regarding some of the terms.
- Catches Enemy sought clarification on the voting process.
- Dye voiced support for including the terms Kawaihae mentioned in the motion due to their visceral impact.
- Johnson sought clarification on the inclusion of items 115 through 144 in the motion.
- Kawaihae clarified that she suggested recommending items 115 through 144 as derogatory without replacements.
- Mills added further context about some of the terms being surnames or names of sweet potato varieties.

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- With consensus among the committee members, items 115 through 144 were included in the discussion.
- DFO DeKoter announced the discussion of items 145 through 161 on the list, noting that some terms might require elaboration due to potential ambiguity.
- MacCannell spoke about the term representing his ancestry, explaining its origin in the conflict between Spain and England and its derogatory usage towards Mediterranean people, particularly Italian-Americans. Despite his personal detachment from the term, he supported its removal from the list.
- Johnson provided additional research indicating the historical prevalence of the slur against Italians and others, highlighting its roots in anti-immigrant attitudes.
- The members continued with discussions on items 162 to 166 on the Geographic Features list. Johnson provided context for one of the terms, highlighting its historical use as a stereotype to dehumanize certain cultures and justify colonization.
- Kawaihae expressed agreement with Johnson's assessment, and other members indicated support as well.
- Moving on to items 167 to 188, Kawaihae suggested extending the discussion to include item 194 due to their similar nature.
- Mills provided insights on item 189, linking it to the Native American word "chinquapin." Catches Enemy suggested including the full name for item 189 as they did with previous recommendations. The group also discussed potential replacements for derogatory terms, considering outreach to affected communities for input.
- The meeting continued with discussions on items 195 to 208, with MacCannell providing insights on a derogatory term rooted in California's history, highlighting its hurtful impact and the trauma associated with it.
- Dr. Don Fixico expressed support for MacCannell's remarks, emphasizing the demeaning nature of such words towards Native people. The group unanimously agreed on the importance of addressing these derogatory terms.
- Moving on to items 209 through 345, Mills noted that some of these might be surnames and require further research.
- Kawaihae suggested keeping them on the list with potential replacement names if they are confirmed to be surnames.
- Vice Chair Pereira raised a logistical question about the classification of certain names, seeking clarification on whether unincorporated communities fell within the committee's purview.
- Johnson explained the scope of the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) and the need for thorough research.
- Fixico shared insights on how the derogatory term might be perceived differently by younger generations.

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- Jessica Campbell, Chief Cartographer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts and advocated for considering the French language's origins in the term "Bayou Sauvage."
- Dye shared research findings on the derogatory nature of the term "savage" and its historical implications.
- Johnson emphasized the colonial connotations of the French language.
- The committee proceeded to discuss and include additional terms in their recommendations, addressing their derogatory nature and historical contexts. They also examined the term "gook" and its potential Native American origin, alongside its derogatory usage during the Vietnam War.
- Dye highlighted the absence of Native American references to the term "gook" in Michigan. Despite differing opinions, the committee decided to keep the term on the list for further consideration.
- The meeting continued with the discussion of terms numbered 352 to 381. Johnson provided insights into the term "gypsy," highlighting its negative associations and stereotypes towards the Romani community.
- Kawaihae suggested potentially excluding census-related terms from the list, particularly those identified with community acceptance, such as in West Virginia.
- MacCannell clarified the removal of census-related terms in previous executive orders. The committee then moved on to discuss terms numbered 382 to 388.
- Carlson shared insights into the term "Eskimo," emphasizing its colonial origins and the importance of seeking input from Indigenous communities.
- Fixico elaborated on the origins of the term "Eskimo" from the Algonquian language.
- Dye expressed agreement with Carlson's suggestion for additional outreach to communities impacted by the term.
- Kawaihae supported Carlson's perspective, advocating for retaining this term on the list where the name appears outside of Alaska.
- The discussion continued with terms numbered 389 to 391, with Johnson advocating for their inclusion on the list.
- The committee then moved on to discuss terms numbered 392 to 394. Kawaihae recalled Fred Mosqueda's previous comment about self-identification with one of the terms. Mosqueda confirmed his statement and provided additional context regarding the term's association with a reservation.
- The committee proceeded to discuss terms numbered 395 to 404, with Mills offering information about the term's connection to a surname and a tree name, while Johnson and Dye highlighted its derogatory nature towards individuals of Mexican heritage.
- The discussion continued with terms numbered 405 to 436, with DFO DeKoter mentioning a previous subcommittee discussion about the origins of the term "cracker." Mills and MacCannell provided insights into its historical use, referring to overseers in the old South and their connection to the term.

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- Mosqueda added further context, highlighting the term's association with poor white individuals in the antebellum era. Johnson emphasized its application toward poor working-class whites, while Trujillo raised questions about grouping similar terms together.
- The committee then addressed terms numbered 437 to 474, with Johnson providing insights into the pejorative nature of one of the terms, particularly in the context of gender-based stereotyping and racism towards Native Americans. There was a discussion about including "Crazy Horse" on the list, with Baca explaining the mis-translation and historical context, and MacCannell suggesting its removal due to its association with mental illness.
- Catches Enemy provided additional perspective on the honor and respect associated with the name "Crazy Horse" among Native Americans, highlighting the controversy surrounding the monument in South Dakota. The committee discussed whether to retain the term based on its colonial origins.
- DFO DeKoter opened the floor for discussion on terms numbered 475 to 477.
- Mills provided insights into the derogatory nature of one of the terms, explaining its historical use towards people of Japanese ancestry, especially during WWII.
- Carlson shared her initial reaction and subsequent research findings, affirming the need to keep the terms on the list.
- The committee then addressed terms numbered 478, 479, 503, and 504, with Johnson raising questions about the exclusion of other similar terms.
- DFO DeKoter acknowledged the oversight and emphasized the iterative nature of the process, encouraging members to continue adding to the list.
- Mills clarified the derogatory nature of one of the terms related to the color brown, highlighting its contextual usage.
- Mosqueda added additional context from English folklore.
- Kawaihae suggested that there was consensus on the derogatory nature of terms 481 to 493, allowing them to move forward.
- Johnson pointed out President Obama's 2016 law to remove the term "oriental" from federal law.
- The committee discussed terms numbered 494 to 502 and 506, with Johnson providing additional context.
- Mills offered historical insights into the term "tramping," noting its evolution from a neutral term to a derogatory one. Johnson and MacCannell debated the origins and connotations of "tramp steamer," with Johnson providing a detailed explanation from the Encyclopedia Britannica.
- Mills questioned the interpretation of historical terms through modern ideologies.
- The committee reviewed terms numbered 507 to 511, with Kawaihae suggesting that some terms related to hiking or vistas could be removed due to their low priority.

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- The discussion then moved to terms 513 and 514, focusing on the term "Anasazi," which Baca clarified as derogatory and not within the committee's purview. Johnson provided a definition and highlighted that term 514 was not within their scope.
- Baca emphasized the importance of recognizing incomplete lists and evolving perspectives.
- The committee then discussed term 515, "Arkie," with Johnson presenting a definition and Fixico and Yañez sharing their perspectives on its derogatory nature. Fixico also provided insight into the etymology of the term "Okie." The committee deliberated on whether to include "Okie" on the list and decided to focus on "Arkie" for the time being. Fixico added a final comment on the cultural significance of the term "Okie."
- The discussion continued with the review of term number 516, "Wetback," which Johnson identified as a widely used ethnic slur historically targeting undocumented Mexicans. She suggested a spelling change for one of the reservoirs labeled "Wetbank Tank" to avoid the derogatory term.
- Yañez expressed doubts about the effectiveness of such a change, while Fixico emphasized the derogatory nature of the term and its intent to suppress Mexican-American individuals.
- The committee then discussed term number 517 and decided to include it with a previous grouping.
- Moving on to terms 518 through 525, Kawaihae suggested retaining terms 522 and 523 on the list due to their connotations with Native American identity, while others debated the derogatory implications of terms like "wild."
- Baca highlighted the association of "wild" with terms like "savage" and "feral," indicating its potentially derogatory nature.
- Fixico shared his personal experience with the term "wild Indian," emphasizing its negative connotations.
- Trujillo expressed agreement with distinguishing between different terms within the group.
- Mills proposed leaving certain terms on the list for further research.
- DFO DeKoter clarified the process for recommending terms to the Secretary, emphasizing the importance of ongoing review and research.
- The meeting continued with the discussion of term number 526, "Wop," which MacCannell described as derogatory toward Italian-Americans, highlighting its historical misinterpretation as an acronym and its origins in Neapolitan Italian.
- Mills mentioned an NBC News story about "Wop Draw."
- Moving on to term number 527, "Beaner," Johnson explained its offensive nature towards Hispanic and Latino individuals, citing examples like the renaming of coffee shops.
- Dye shared the example of Beaner's Coffee changing its name for similar reasons.
- The committee then discussed the final grouping of terms, 528 to 531, including "Zip City" and "Zip Rock," with Mills providing background on their origins.

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- Johnson presented information suggesting "Zip" as a slur against Asians and Italian immigrants.
- Reconvening after a short break, Chair Valandra shared an update regarding "Crazy Horse Canyon," a place on his reservation, stating the intention to work on its renaming.
- The committee then discussed the process of accessing the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) database, with Johnson explaining its functionality and providing guidance on how to use it. Chair Valandra encouraged the public to explore the database for educational purposes.
- Kawaihae inquired about the research process undertaken by the Geographic Features Subcommittee, particularly regarding individual site names, expressing interest in receiving training on using the BGN database.
- MacCannell offered to provide on using the database and expressed willingness to attend subcommittee meetings as a resource. DFO DeKoter emphasized the usefulness of the database in providing historical context and additional information about place names.
- Kawaihae asked about the number of alternative or variant names allowed for a geographic feature in the BGN database, leading to a discussion about accessing and navigating the database.
- Betsy Kanalley clarified that the database retains variant names even after derogatory terms are removed, suggesting the implementation of content advisories for public awareness.
- DFO DeKoter emphasized the importance of public engagement with the database and encouraged individuals to contribute additional place names or raise concerns.
- Mills shared insights from his experience with research and navigating the database, highlighting the ongoing effort required in the process.

**Public Comment**

- Meadow Dibble from Place Justice, along with colleague Erika Arthur, expressed gratitude to the committee for addressing racist and derogatory place names. Dibble shared preliminary findings from their analysis of place names in Maine, highlighting the disproportionate representation of Indigenous and Black communities in the naming process. They emphasized the need to address commemorative place names honoring individuals who perpetrated violence and caused harm, providing examples of such names in Maine, including those commemorating prominent enslavers like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Hancock, and Samuel Waldo. Dibble also discussed numerical names, plantations, and the connection between the town of Blaine, Maine, and the annexation of Hawaii by James G. Blaine. They concluded by thanking the committee for their efforts in addressing the legacies of colonial violence.
- Arthur stated that she was present to answer any questions regarding Dibble's testimony. Arthur expressed agreement with Dibble's statements and discussed their efforts in Maine, including advocating for the establishment of a names board to oversee place

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names. They highlighted positive reception from the public and ongoing engagement with communities across the state. Dibble added that they were open to further questions.

- Madonna Feather expressed gratitude to the committee for their work in addressing derogatory place names. She emphasized the trauma experienced by Indigenous communities due to these names and thanked Secretary Haaland for her role. Feather appreciated the committee members' dedication to listening and acknowledged the importance of their work. She highlighted the need for federal and state-level action to rectify these names and urged continued outreach and education efforts. Feather also called for funding to support the committee's work and concluded by thanking the committee again and yielding her time.
- Betsy Kanalley from the U.S. Forest Service requested the consideration of changing the name of an unincorporated, populated place called N-I-G-T-O-N in Texas, within the Davey Crockett National Forest, due to its offensive nature. She mentioned that the place was established for formerly enslaved people and suggested conducting outreach to see if the community wishes to change the name. Some committee members inquired about the current use of the town and whether residents have expressed opinions about the name. Kanalley highlighted the need for further investigation and outreach, suggesting that the U.S. Forest Service could assist in this effort. The committee expressed appreciation for bringing up the issue and acknowledged its relevance to ongoing discussions about variant names and spellings.

**Remarks**

- DFO DeKoter explained that the committee's scheduled vote would be held at 4 p.m. due to the virtual participants relying on the set time. She then outlined the agenda for the vote, starting with the acceptance of meeting minutes and followed by votes on various proposals, including the establishment of a new subcommittee for Education and Outreach and the replacement of certain geographic names. She also noted the importance of consensus and the option to set aside items for future consideration.
- Chair Valandra and Vice Chair Pereira also expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts and emphasized the importance of the work being done.
- Committee members shared their reflections, expressing gratitude for the opportunity and acknowledging the significance of the process.
- Chair Valandra highlighted the importance of building on the progress made and engaging younger generations in government policy. He encouraged open-mindedness and consensus-building among committee members.
- DFO DeKoter addressed Vice Chair Pereira's previous question about the draft recommendation regarding the removal of c—n from geographic features. She explained that the decision was made by the Geographic Features Subcommittee to replace c—n with a term derived from "raccoon" to eliminate its harmful and racist connotations. This replacement would allow communities to be empowered to propose further changes if desired. Dekoter clarified the rationale behind this decision, emphasizing the importance

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of removing the offensive term from the landscape while providing flexibility for future adjustments.

- The committee commenced voting at 4 pm HST.
- The committee first voted to accept the minutes from the December 7th and 8th, 2022 meeting, followed by the minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. Both motions passed without any opposition.
- Next, the committee voted to accept the Place Name Reconciliation Guiding Visions and Principles, which was motioned by Johnson and seconded by another member. This motion also passed without any opposition.
- The establishment of a new sub-committee for Education and Outreach was then put to a vote, with the proposed name being "Education and Outreach Subcommittee." The motion to create this sub-committee was made by Kawaihae and seconded by Mills, and it was unanimously approved.
- The fourth item on the agenda was a draft recommendation from the Geographic Features Subcommittee to replace the term "c--n" on the landscape with "raccoon." After a motion and second, the recommendation was discussed briefly regarding the inclusion of signage or context, which was suggested for implementation in the future. The committee then voted to approve the recommendation, which passed without any opposition, prompting applause from the members.
- DFO DeKoter presented the Federal Land Unit Names Subcommittee list to Chairman Valandra, proposing to review and vote on each name listed. Kawaihae, the Subcommittee Chair, moved to review and vote on each name, which was seconded by another member. The committee then proceeded to vote on each name.
- The committee voted to advance Piute Creek in California, due to a misspelling, and advanced Devil's Tower National Monument in Wyoming and Bayou Sauvage Urban National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana. They also approved Senator Wash Sq--- Lake Dike in California and Dead Indian Creek Diversion in Oregon, both under the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Under the Forest Service, the committee accepted Dead Man Bar Recreation Area in Idaho and Dead Man Creek Research Natural Area in Colorado, but set aside Devil's Backbone Wilderness in Missouri, Devil's Base and Research Natural Area in California, Devil's Garden Research Natural Area in California, Devil's Garden Ranger District in California, Devil's Rock Hosselkus Research Natural Area in California, and Devil's Staircase Wilderness in Oregon.
- DFO DeKoter suggested reviewing the Geographic Features spreadsheet using a similar motion to what Kawaihae proposed earlier. Acting on behalf of Catches Enemy, Kawaihae moved to review each term and number on the spreadsheet and allow Chair Valandra to call for a vote on whether to move them forward for consideration. The motion also acknowledged the authority of the Chair and Vice Chair, in consultation with the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), to determine a timeline for consideration by the Secretary.

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- The motion was seconded and approved by the committee. DFO DeKoter then proceeded to present the different tranches of names and numbers for consideration, specifically looking at numbers 42-144. The committee voted to move forward with all the tranches of names presented, except for number 42, which was considered a unique circumstance and a replacement name.
- DFO DeKoter presented the next groups of numbers for consideration, starting with numbers 145 through 161. The committee unanimously voted to move them forward. They proceeded similarly with numbers 162 through 166, with no opposition to moving them forward.
- Next, DFO DeKoter presented numbers 167 through 194 for consideration as a block, except for numbers 189 and 190, which were removed for further research. Chair Valandra suggested splitting the block into two motions, but Kawaihae made a motion to consider numbers 167 through 188. However, after some discussion, the motion was withdrawn, and they proceeded to vote on numbers 167 through 188, which were approved unanimously.
- The committee then voted on numbers 191 through 194, followed by numbers 195 through 208, with all members in favor of moving them forward.
- DFO DeKoter presented the next groups of numbers for consideration, starting with numbers 209 through 345, which were unanimously approved to move forward. They proceeded similarly with numbers 346 through 350, and then with number 351, all of which were approved to move forward.
- Next, they reviewed numbers 352 through 381, but clarified that any census designated places or items not under the purview of the BGN would be removed. After some discussion and clarification, they voted on numbers 352 through 354, followed by numbers 356 through 358, and then numbers 362 through 381, which were approved to move forward (and 355, 359, 360, and 361 were set aside).
- Following that, they reviewed numbers 382 through 388, but due to a note regarding Alaska, only numbers 383, 385, 387 and 388 were approved by consensus vote to move forward. They then reviewed numbers 389 through 394, all of which were unanimously approved to move forward.
- DFO DeKoter presented numbers 395 to 404 for consideration, which were unanimously approved to move forward. They proceeded similarly with numbers 405 to 436, all of which were also approved to move forward.
- There was a clarification regarding number 439, which was subsequently removed from consideration. They then reviewed numbers 437 to 438, followed by numbers 440 to 468, all of which were approved to move forward.
- Continuing, they reviewed numbers 469 to 471, then numbers 472 to 474, and subsequently numbers 475 to 477, all of which were approved to move forward. They proceeded similarly with numbers 478 to 479, and finally with number 480, all of which were approved to move forward.

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- DFO DeKoter presented numbers 481 to 493 for consideration, all of which were approved to move forward. They then reviewed numbers 494 to 502, also approved to move forward. Continuing, they reviewed numbers 503 and 504, followed by number 505, all of which were approved unanimously.
- They then proceeded to number 506, approved to move forward, followed by numbers 507 to 511, which were put aside due to some objections from committee members. Moving forward, they reviewed number 512, which was unanimously approved. They continued similarly with numbers 513 to 514, then number 515, and number 516, all approved to move forward without any opposition.
- Next, they reviewed number 517, approved unanimously.
- For numbers 518 to 521, there were objections, with those names being set aside for further discussion.
- They then reviewed numbers 522 and 523, both approved to move forward. Following that, they reviewed numbers 524 and 525, also approved without opposition.
- Number 526 was reviewed and approved unanimously. Similarly, number 527 was approved to move forward without any objections. Moving on, they reviewed numbers 528 to 531. Objection was made to 529 and 531 due to questions about research that suggested the names were not intended as derogatory.
- After the vote, there was a discussion regarding certain names deemed potentially derogatory, with explanations provided to justify their inclusion or exclusion. DFO DeKoter emphasized the importance of continued research and engagement, clarifying that the list is subject to further examination and revision.
- Chair Valandra and Harrell highlighted the significance of public engagement and tribal engagement in the process.

### **Closing Remarks**

- Chair Valandra expressed gratitude to the committee members for their dedication and effort during the meeting, acknowledging the challenging nature of the discussions. He emphasized the importance of transparency and clarified the intentions behind the decisions made. Vice Chair Pereira echoed Chair Valandra's sentiments, recognizing the significance of the discussions and the need for clarity regarding their intentions.
- Chair Valandra highlighted the historic opportunity presented to the Native people and emphasized their capability to handle it. He expressed appreciation for the participation of both in-person and virtual attendees, stressing the importance of unity and commitment to the cause. Chair Valandra concluded by wishing everyone a safe journey home and adjourning the meeting.
- DFO DeKoter thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged continued feedback through the committee's website.

### **Decisions and Actions**

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- Approval of Minutes – The Committee unanimously approved minutes from the December 7 and 8, 2022, and June 14 and 15, 2023, meetings.
- New Subcommittee – The Committee unanimously approved the establishment of a new subcommittee on Education and Outreach.
- Adoption of Principles – The Committee unanimously adopted the *Place Name Reconciliation Guiding Visions and Principles* to provide guidance and explanation for the process used to address derogatory features on the landscape.
- Federal Land Unit Names – The Committee unanimously voted to move forward those names indicated on the Federal Land Unit Names list as potentially derogatory names that require engagement and input from appropriate Tribal, State and local governments, affected Federal agencies and departments, and local communities to make a determination on whether a replacement name is needed.
- Geographic Feature Names – The Committee unanimously voted to move forward those names indicated on the Geographic Features list as potentially derogatory names that require engagement and input from appropriate Tribal, State and local governments, affected Federal agencies and departments, and local communities to make a determination on whether a replacement name is needed.
- Recommendation on the term “c—n” – The Committee unanimously recommended that the term “coon,” which has long been used as a derogatory term toward African Americans, be declared derogatory by the Secretary and replaced on the landscape with the word “raccoon,” except in instances where a geographic feature can be clearly traced to someone with that surname.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Valandra thanked Secretary Haaland, Committee members, and meeting attendees and adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm, HST, on November 16, 2023.